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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5244
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

CLAS BUENOS AIRES 5694

INCISO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

12356: N/A
S: PINT, AR
JECT: BROTHER OF HOMBERG WITNESS DISAPPEARS
: BUENOS AIRES 5313

FEDERAL POLICE OCT 2 BEGAN A FORMAL INVESTIGATION IN THE RE-
TED DISAPPEARANCE OF THE BROTHER OF A MAN WHO HAS MADE SERIOUS
GES AGAINST FORMER NAVY CHIEF EMILIO MASSERA IN THE HOLMBERG
E.

MARCELO DUPONT, 46-YEAR-OLD EXECUTIVE ON AN ADVERTISING AGENCY
F RECENTLY WENT INTO BANKRUPTCY, REPORTEDLY LEFT A FRIEND'S
E ABOUT 6 PM SEPT 30 TO KEEP A DATE WITH HIS LAWYER. THE LAW-
AND DUPONT'S FAMILY REPORTED TO POLICE AND THE PRESS HIS
LURE EITHER TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT OR RETURN HOME THAT NIGHT.
SUNDAY OCT 3 NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ADDITIONAL DETAILS SUGGESTING
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WE WAS THE FIRST OF THE FIVE THE FRIENDS WHO BE TRAVEL
WENT TO THE FRIENDS WHO BE TRAVEL THE FRIENDS WHO BE TRAVEL

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Page 1

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Page: 2

Channel: n/a

MILY THAT DUPONT REMARKED THAT HE THOUGHT HE HAD SEEN A WHITE
RD FALCON FOLLOWING HIM, "BUT HE DID NOT GIVE THE MATTER MUCH
PORTANCE." DUPONT LEFT ALLENDE'S APARTMENT FOR RETIRO
ATION TO CATCH A SUBWAY TO HIS LAWYER'S OFFICE AND HAS NOT BEEN
EN SINCE.

DUPONT'S BROTHER, GREGORIO DUPONT, TOLD THE PRESS 10 DAYS
O HE HAD TESTIFIED IN COURT SEPT 20 THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1978,
FEW DAYS BEFORE HER KIDNAPPING AND MURDER, ELENA HOLMBERG, GRE-
RIO'S CLASSMATE IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY, TOLD HIM THAT
HE KNEW FOR A FACT THAT NOT ONLY DID MASSERA MEET WITH FIRMINICH
PARIS BUT PAID HIM MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS." MASSERA WAS
THE TIME NAVY CINC AND, ACCORDING TO HOLMBERG, A SOMETIME
SITOR TO PARIS WHERE HE HAD SET UP A PROPAGANDA OPERATION IN
E ARGENTINE EMBASSY THERE. MARIO FIRMINICH IS A LEADER OF THE
RORIST MONTONERO ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS DRIVEN UNDERGROUND OR
TO EXILE IN THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION IN THE 1970S. GREGORIO
PONT'S ASSERTIONS, WHILE CIRCUMSTANTIAL, HAVE BEEN DAMAGING TO
SERA, WHO CLAIMS A SMEAR CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN MOUNTED AGAINST
I BY POLITICAL ENEMIES. HE HAS BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST FORMER
ASURY SECRETARY JUAN ALEMANN AND GREGORIO DUPONT FOR INNUENDO
O SLANDER. AS PART OF HIS LEGAL/PUBLICITY COUNTEROFFENSIVE, MAS-
A EARLIER HAD ASKED THE AUTHORITIES TO ASSIGN SPECIAL SECURITY
AILS TO PROTECT DEFENDANTS NAMED IN HIS SUIT.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MARCELO DUPONT FOUR DAYS AGO SEEMED TO
GREETED WITH SOME OFFICIAL SKEPTICISM. HIS BUSINESS AND PER-
AL PROBLEMS WERE ALLUDED TO IN SOME REPORTS AS THE POSSIBLE
IVES FOR HIS FAILURE TO CONTACT FAMILY OR FRIENDS. THERE ALSO
E REPORTS LATE OCT 1 AND EARLY THE NEXT DAY THAT HE HAD IN
T ARRIVED HOME. THE FAMILY DENIED ALL THIS AND PROVIDED POLICE
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H SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CAUSE THEM, ACCORDING TO FEDERAL
ICE COMMISSIONER RODOLFO LOPEZ, TO CHANGE THE CASE FROM "ES-
LISHING THE WHEREABOUTS" TO AN "INVESTIGATION OF PRESUMED IL-
AL DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY" OF MARCELO DUPONT. FAMILY MEMBERS
OTHERS WHO HAD SEEN DUPONT LAST WERE SUMMONED OCT 2 TO GIVE
TIMONY BEFORE THE FEDERAL JUDGE HANDLING THE POLICE INVESTIGA-
N BUSHNET

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